



## **38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Tops 20 Wisconsin Safest Cities**

For the second year in a row the Town of Oconomowoc has been listed as the number one safest city in Wisconsin, as reported by SafeWise. SafeWise is a national security organization that collects crime data from the FBI, factors in population and demographic information to compile a list of the 20 safest cities in the state. What an honor it is to not only have the Town of Oconomowoc take first place, but to also see Marshall and Summit make the list.

The Town of Oconomowoc had zero incidents of violent crime and just 22 reports of property related crimes. This can be partially attributed to the town's growing participation in Crime Stoppers, a nationally recognized organization that empowers citizens to work together with law enforcement. It also shows Police Chief Jim Wallis's ongoing commitment to his on the street officers interacting with businesses and citizens alike.

The Village of Marshall is ranked as the ninth safest city in Wisconsin. The Village understands the value of community policing, whether it's through events like its annual Safety Fair at the EMS and Fire Station, or participating in the National Night Out. The village works hard to bring law enforcement and other safety professionals together with the community to provide family friendly demonstrations, educational materials and to help citizens gain a better understanding of crime prevention and community safety initiatives.

Summit is ranked as the nineteenth safest city in Wisconsin. The village is very proud of its strong Boat Patrol and Education Program which helps educate citizens on matters of boat safety. Silver Lake is a popular destination for sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts alike, and the law enforcement community in Summit recognizes the importance of keeping that lake safe for all of those seeking to use it.

As the State Assembly's Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee chairman, I routinely work closely with law enforcement agencies throughout the state. I hear a lot about the importance of community policing and proactive policing.

Community policing is when officers and residents recognize that they are both on the same team. This proactive approach to enforcement encourages residents and officers to establish long term relationships that foster collaboration and communication. These relationships allow police and local communities to identify safety concerns, reduce crime and improve both officer safety and resident safety.

The law enforcement community in the 38<sup>th</sup> assembly district has done a particularly great job keeping our neighborhoods safe and working outside of the box to engage the residents. When it comes to tight knit communities like those in the 38<sup>th</sup> assembly district, a proactive approach to community policing programs, can have an enormous impact on crime prevention.

It's no coincidence these communities enjoy safe living. Remember, law enforcement couldn't do it without the same goals and cooperation of its citizens and vice versa.